164: UMA CASA CAÍDA

SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD™

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN

16

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GUARDIÕES DO GLOBO

SQ SQUADRINHOS

O FUTURO DOS QUADRINHOS

25 image FUND. 1992

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IMAGE COMICS APRESENTA

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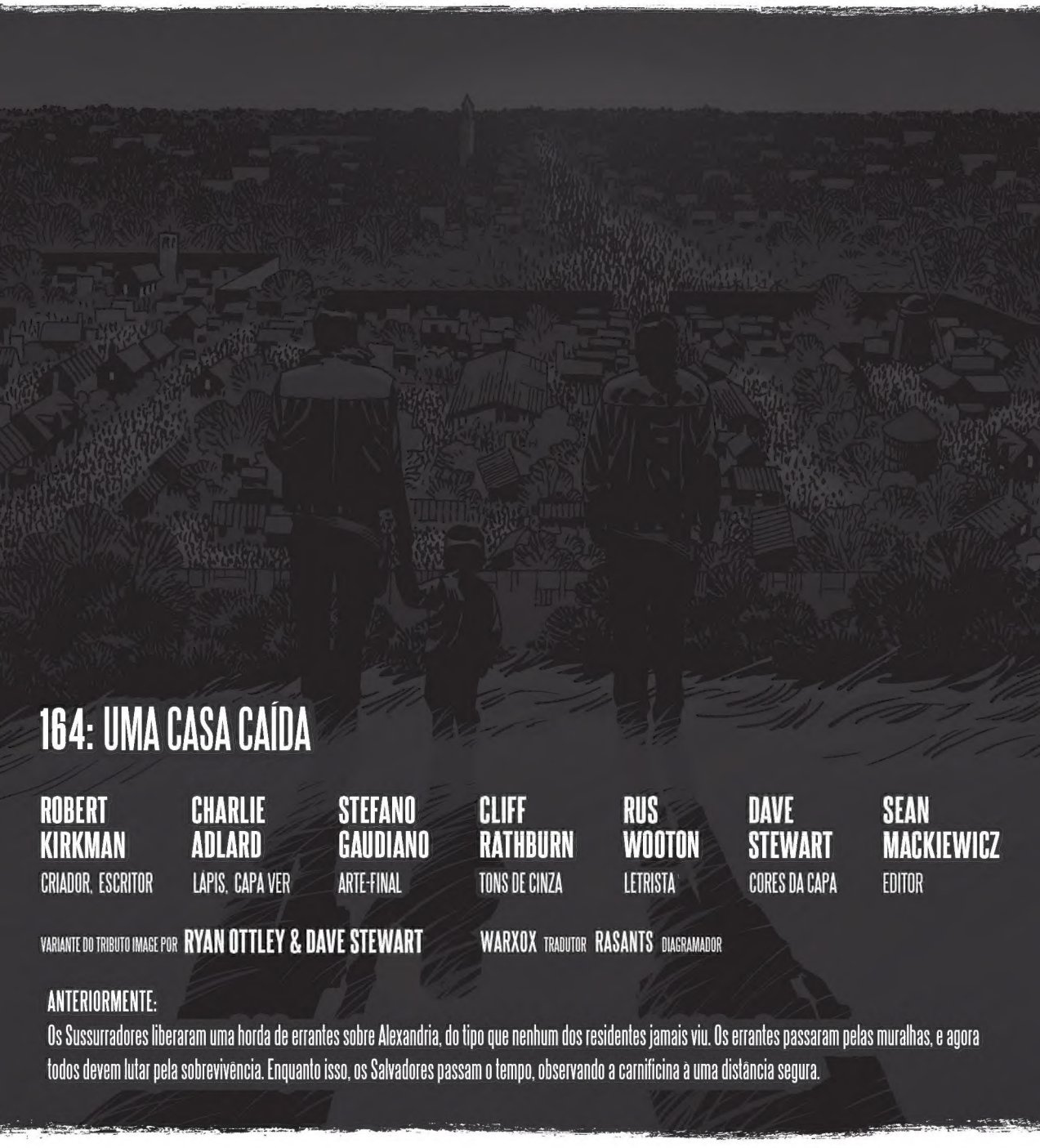

164: UMA CASA CAÍDA

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ANTERIORMENTE:

Os Sussurradores liberaram uma horda de errantes sobre Alexandria, do tipo que nenhum dos residentes jamais viu. Os errantes passaram pelas muralhas, e agora todos devem lutar pela sobrevivência. Enquanto isso, os Salvadores passam o tempo, observando a carnificina à uma distância segura.

SKYBOUND

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THE WALKING DEAD #164, February 2017. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2701 NW Vaughn St., Ste. 780, Portland, OR 97210.

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PUTA MERDA.

NÃO... *NÃO*. ISSO NÃO

NÃO SIGNIFICA QUE SEU PAI ESTÁ MORTO. NÃO SEGE O QUE ACONTECEU.

LYDIA ESTÁ CERTA.

EU SEI... EU SEI... É QUE...

OH, DEUS...

NÃO PERCA A ESPERANÇA, GURI.

MICHONNE!

VIMOS SUA CARAVANA, PENSAMOS QUE PRECISARIAM DE INFORMAÇÕES.

NÓS OS VIMOS CHEGANDO RICK ESTAVA COM UM GRUPO DEFENDENDO O PORTÃO NÓS *NÃO* FOMOS PEGOS DE GUARDA BAIXA.

O PORTÃO CAIU ESTÃO *LÁ DENTRO*.

O QUE?

NÃO IMPORTA. NOSSO PESSOAL SABE O QUE ESTÁ FAZENDO. TENHO CERTEZA QUE SE PROTEGERAM. AS CASAS ESTÃO SEGURAS.

TEMOS ATRAÍDO PARTES DA MANADA AFASTANDO-OS. NÓS DEVEMOS VOLTAR.

VAMOS NOS JUNTAR.

LEVÁ-LOS AO LESTE MANDANDO PARA O OCEANO, COMO LEMINGUES? LEGAL.

EU VOU TAMBÉM.

NÃO.

VOCÊ NÃO É UM MONTADOR BOM O BASTANTE, NÃO PARA *ISTO*.

PRECISO QUE VÁ DIZER A BRIANNA O QUE ESTOU FAZENDO. MANTENHA HERSHEL A SALVO. ESTABELEÇA UM PERÍMETRO. VIGIE A ÁREA— ESTEJA PRONTO PARA SE MOVER SE FICAR INSEGURO.

CARL, NÃO HÁ TEMPO PARA DISCUTIR.

OK.

VÁ. EU FICO.

VAMOS, SEU ALEIJADO LEVANTA!

NÃO ME FAÇA COLOCAR SUA BUNDA NOS MEUS OMBROS!

APENAS VÁ ABRA UMA PORTA EU ALCANÇO!

ESTOU ME MOVENDO MAIS RÁPIDO QUE ELE!

MUITO POUCO.

FODA-SE ISSO VAI SERVIR!

ESPERA! ESPERA!

...

VAMOS!

WHUDD!

SLAM!

SHUFF!

SHUFF!

PENSOU QUE EU IA TE DEIXAR LÁ FORA NO ÚLTIMO MINUTO NÃO FOI?

NÃO
MINHA PRA MIM,
CARALHO.

...

VOCÊ VIU AS OUTRAS PESSOAS LÁ FORA, CERTO? AQUELES QUE *PASSARAM* POR VOCÊ AQUELES QUE NÃO VOLTARAM PARA AJUDAR?

OS
QUE ESTAVAM
COM MEDO?

...

CERTO, CUMPRA O PAPEL DO CARA NERVOSO NUMA DISPUTA DE CHUPAR PAU E FIQUE COM A PORRA DA BOCA FECHADA.

VEJA SE ME IMPORTO.

MELHOR FICAR QUIETO PRA QUE ESSES PORRAS MORTOS AQUI FORA PERCAM O INTERESSE EM NÓS E COMEÇEM A SEGUIR OS OUTROS PORRAS LESADOS QUANDO ELES PASSAREM CAMINHANDO DESCENDO A RUA.

MAS SÉRIO, E VOU USAR MINHA VOZ *INTERNA*... AQUELAS PESSOAS ESTAVAM ASSUSTADAS *PRA CARALHO*. SIDDIQ, ANNIE... PAULA COM CERTEZA. TODOS OS OUTROS.

DAVA PRA VER NOS OLHOS DELES E A VELOCIDADE DA PORRA DOS *PÉS* DELES.

MAS NÃO VOCÊ... E NÃO *EU*.

MESMO AGORA, PRESOS NESTA CASA COM MILHARES DELES LÁ FORA NOS CERCANDO E AINDA ESTAMOS CALMOS PRO CARALHO DA BUCETA.

O QUE QUER DIZER?

SÓ ESTOU DIZENDO SOMOS *PARECIDOS*, VOCÊ E EU.

NÓS DEVÍAMOS MESMO NOS DAR MUITO MELHOR.

CONFIE EM MIM, NEGAN.

JÁ ERA.

VROOO!

VROOO!

VROOO!

VROOOO!

VROOOO!

OPA, ORA.
NÃO É ANDA QUE EU NÃO TENHA FEITO ANTES SÓ *MAIS* DELES.
NADA PARA ME PREOCUPAR...

ISSO É BOM, ISSO

NÃO NÃO SEPAREM. NÃO QUEBREM!

NÃO POR AQUI

POR AQUI!

ANDREA!

ACABAMOS DE DESPEJAR UM LOTE PARECE QUE PRECISA DE AJUDA?

SEMPRE.

CONTINUE GUIANDO ELES VAMOS CIRCULAR E GARANTIR QUE SE AGRUPEM E NÃO SEPAREM.

QUE BARULHO TODO É ESSE? O QUE ESTÁ ACONTECENDO?

SÓ DESCANSE NADA PARA SE PREOCUPAR...

NOSSA, ISSO NÃO PARECE CERTO.

ELE DEIXOU A PORTA DESTRANCADA ESSE ERA O LUGAR MAIS PERTO. NÃO É NOSSA CULPA.

SÓ PARECE ESTRANHO SER NA CASA DE EUGENE ENQUANTO ELE SE FOI.

E O QUE É TUDO ISSO...?

SEI QUE ESTAMOS TODOS COM MEDO MAS ESTAMOS TODOS NISSO JUNTOS, E POR ENQUANTO AO MENO ***ESTAMOS SEGUROS***.

VAMOS PASSAR POR ISSO. ENCONTRAREMOS UM JEITO. ***SEMPRE*** ENCONTRAMOS.

É MELHOR FICAR BEM CONFORTÁVEL. PARECE QUE VAMOS FICAR AQUI POR UM TEMPO...

QUAL FOI A *PIOR* COISA QUE JÁ FEZ?

FODA-SE.

É ARROGÂNCIA MINHA ACHAR QUE VOCÊ ESSA PALAVRA *MAIS* POR MINHA CAUSA? DIGO, PARECE ISSO PRA MIM... MAS NÃO É COMO SE EU TIVESSE INVENTADO A PALAVRA NEM NADA.

DE QUALQUER CARALHO-BUCETA-CUZISSE... VAMOS LÁ. ESTAMOS MATANDO TEMPO... ESPERANDO AQUELAS COISAS SEREM AFASTADAS... OU ELES ARROMBAREM AQUI E NOS FODER APAGANDO NOSSA AGONIA OU SEI LÁ...

ENTÃO VAMOS MATAR TEMPO. A PIOR COISA QUE JÁ FEZ.

VAI.

TUDO MEIO QUE ESTÁ LIGADO A ESTA ALTURA...

...DIFÍCIL SEPARAR. É UM BLOCO SÓLIDO DE MALDADE TUDO FERVIDO COMO UMA SÓ COISA...

A PIOR COISA QUE JÁ FIZ...

VIVER.

QUANDO TANTOS OUTROS... QUE DEVERIAM... NÃO.

BEM, ISSO...

ISSO É...

...

SAQUE! ESSA.

TANTOS CARALHOS DE PESSOAS... ***FRACOS*** DE MERDA, ***FRACOTES*** DO CARALHO. CHORANDO. ASSUSTADOS. FAZENDO TODO CARALHO DE COISA EM SEU PODER PARA SEREM MORTOS.

FODIDOS SEM CORAGEM SE ACOVARDANDO COM MEDO ATÉ SEREM RASGADO EM PEDAÇOS. EU FUI ***CERCADO*** POR ELES. OBSERVAVA ELES TODOS MORREREM... TANTOS QUE JÁ PERDI A PORRA DA CONTA.

DEPOIS DE UM TEMPO... SÓ COMECEI A VER ***TODO MUNDO*** ASSIM. PORRA, A MAIORIA DAS PESSOAS É ASSIM. DWIGHT, AQUELES VIADOS NO PORTÃO— FUGINDO DE TERROR, CARALHO.

EU SÓ PERDI TODO RESPEITO PELA RAÇA HUMANA. TORNA MUITO FÁCIL ESMAGAR OS MIOLOS DE UM HOMEM QUANDO VOCÊ ACHA QUE ISSO PODERIA SALVAR TODOS SEUS AMIGOS... ESPECIALMENTE QUANDO VOCÊ ACHA QUE A ÚNICA FORMA DE SEUS AMIGOS SEREM ***ENGANADOS*** A VIVER É SE ELES FOREM FEITOS DE ***ESCRAVOS***.

VOCÊ PARA DE VER AS PESSOAS COMO HUMANOS DEPOIS DE UM TEMPO...

...

NÃO ESTOU DANDO PORRA DE DESCULPAS. SEI QUE O QUE FIZ FOI *FODIDO* PRA CARALHO DE UM LADO E FODIDO PRA BUCETA DO OUTRO.

VOCÊ ME AJUDOU A VER ISSO. ME AJUDOU A VER O OUTRO LADO. FOI POR ISSO QUE FIQUEI EM SUA CELA. FOI POR ISSO QUE TE TROUXE A CABEÇA DE ALFA.

FOI POR ISSO QUE ACABEI DE *SALVAR A PORRA DA SUA VIDA*.

A PIOR COISA QUE JÁ FIZ FOI DEIXAR MINHA ESPOSA APODRECER.

EM NÃO PODIA, OUTRA PESSOA TEVE QUE ABATÊ-LA.

E *POR QUE?* EU TINHA ALGUM TIPO DE COMPULSÃO NA ÉPOCA OS MORTOS PRECISAM CONTINUAR MORTOS... COMO SE ELA ESTIVESSE EM *AGONIA* OU ALGUMA MERDA... ALGUM TIPO DE PERVERSÃO DE QUEM ELA ERA... UMA *ABOMINAÇÃO*.

DE ONDE ISSO VEIO? EU NÃO TINHA *AINDA NÃO FAÇO CARALHO DE IDEIA* DE COMO É SER UM DESSES PORRAS QUE NÃO MORREM. TUDO PODERIA TER GOSTO DE *TORTA DE ABÓBORA*, E PODERIA SER COMO UM CONCERTO *SEM FIM* DO NEIL YOUNG EM SUA CABEÇA PELO QUE SEI. COM *SHOW DE LUZES* E AS PORRAS E ESSAS MERDAS.

MAS *NÃO*, ELA FOI ABATIDA, E EU NEM VI. ATÉ FIQUEI NA ÁREA POR SEMANAS... NUNCA VOLTEI PARA FAZER A COISA CERTA.

EU SÓ... NÃO PODIA *VÊ-LA* DAQUELE JEITO DE NOVO. NÃO PODIA COLOCÁ-LA NO CHÃO— COLOCAR ELA PRA DESCANSAR.

ELA É UMA PINHA DE OSSOS SECOS APODRECENDO NA PORRA DO SOLO... MINHA ESPOSA... *POR MINHA CAUSA*.

LONGE DELES Ã DISTÂNCIA, PELA ESTRADA.

É O BASTANTE. ELES NÃO FAZEM IDEIA QUE CIRCULAMOS— ELES "NOS" SEGUIRÃO DIRETO PARA A ÁGUA.

VAMOS PEGAR MAIS. DEPOIS QUE ALEXANDRIA ESTIVER LIMPA, VAMOS VOLTAR GARANTIR QUE ELES FAÇAM O RESTO DO CAMINHO.

TENHO QUE DIZER, EUGENE, VOCÊ REALMENTE TRANSFORMOU ISSO NUMA CIÊNCIA.

É IMPRESSIONANTE.

ATRAÍDOS POR SOM E MOVIMENTO. A COMPULSÃO PARA COMER NUNCA ACABA. SUSCETÍVEL AO COMPORTAMENTO DE GRUPO QUE FAZ O MOVIMENTO FÁCIL DE PREVER E CONTROLAR.

ELES SÃO CRIATURAS ***SIMPLES***. FÁCEIS DE ENTENDER.

SE VOCÊ DIZ. QUANDO EU AINDA ERA UM CORREDOR, PASSAVA A MAIORIA DO MEU TEMPO FAZENDO SÓ ISSO... ***CORRENDO***.

NÃO USAVA MUITO TEMPO PARA FAZER NADA MAIS QUANDO SE TRATAVA DISSO.

É ISSO QUE É TÃO IMPORTANTE SOBRE O QUE RICK CONSTRUIU ESTAMOS SEGUROS BASTANTE PARA COMEÇAR A PRESTAR ATENÇÃO NOS DETALHES.

FORA OS DIAS COMO HOJE...

VOU SER *COMPLETAMENTE* HONESTO... DIAS COMO HOJE... QUASE FICO *ANSIOSO* PARA ELES A ESSA ALTURA.

POSSO VER COMO CONSTANTEMENTE MONTAR SUPRIMENTOS TE TORNA UM POUCO VICIADO EM ADRENALINA.

NÃO É ISSO MESMO. DESDE QUE PERDI MINHA PERNA, ME SINTO MAIS *ÚTIL* QUANDO ESTOU NUM CAVALO.

A MULETA QUE VOCÊ FEZ FUNCIONA BEM, É QUE NUM CAVALO, ME SINTO QUASE *COMPLETO*.

NÃO É A MESMA COISA, NEM DE PERTO, MAS ESTIVE CERCADO POR TODOS OS RICKS E ANDREAS DO MUNDO POR TANTO TEMPO QUE VOCÊ NÃO PODE EVITAR SE SENTIR... INÚTIL.

ENTÃO FAZER ISSO... É BOM PARA MIM TAMBÉM.

ESTAMOS MUITO FODIDOS.

SIM, SENHOR.

PRECISAMOS DE MAIS VEJA DENTRO DAS MURALHAS! SÃO UM *FORMIGUEIRO!* ESSAS CASAS NÃO AGUENTARÃO SE NÃO COMEÇARMOS A ATRAÍ-LOS PARA FORA!

DISPARE ALGUNS TIROS!

ESTAMOS MUITO PERTO *FICAREMOS CERCADOS!*

NÃO VAMOS!

FAÇA!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

ANDA!

ANDA!

ANDA!

ESTÁ *FUNCIONANDO!*

ANDREA *TOQUE O CHIFRE!*

PUTA MERDA!

VRROOOO!

DESCULPE, ESTAMOS FICANDO SEM *TEMPO*. A CERCA CAIU E ALEXANDRIA ESTÁ TOMADA.

VOCÊS TRÊS TIREM ESSE GRUPO. VAMOS LUTAR PARA PASSAR DA MURALHA!

OK. ESTAMOS NESSA.

VAMOS CAVALGAR À FRENTE E CIRCULAR *BOA SORTE!*

ESPERE DEIXE QUE SE APROXIMEM ANTES DE SEGUIRMOS. NÃO QUERO PERDER ELES.

PUTA MERDA...

ELES CUIDAM DISSO! *VOCÊS* COMIGO.

TEM CERTEZA QUE TRÊS MONTADORES BASTAM PARA ADMINISTRAR A MANADA?

OK... HEATH VOCÊ COMIGO. EUGENE, GARANTA QUE ELES CONSIGAM.

TUDO BEM.

VAMOS NOS ESPALHAR TENTE EVITAR AS BORDAS DE SE QUEBRAREM.

COM NÓS QUATRO, PODEMOS FAZER ISSO.

OUVIRAM O HOMEM.

SIM.

COMEÇANDO A DIMINUIR PARECE QUE ESTÃO MESMO INDO PRA *FORA* AO INVÉS DE *ENTRAR* AGORA.

É UM ALÍVIO *DO CARALHO*.

ONDE *VOCÊ* ESTÁ INDO?

JUNTAR *ARMAS*. NÃO PODEMOS FICAR SENTADOS AQUI NOS *ESCONDENDO* O DIA TODO. SE ELES VÃO SAIR, DWIGHT E O RESTO PODEM *PRECISA* DE NÓS. TEMOS QUE FAZER ALGO.

NÃO.

COMO É?

EU FAREI ALGO. *VOCÊ* FICA.

NÃO VOU JOGAR VOCÊ NO MEU OMBRO DEPOIS QUE VOCÊ NÃO PUDER ACOMPANHAR E FAZER NÓS *DOIS* MORRERMOS.

FIQUE PERTO DA PORTA ME CUBRA. SE A MERDA ENLOUQUECER, VOCÊ SALTA PARA DENTRO.

NÃO ATIRE EM *MIM*, TÁ?

A MENOS É CLARO QUE ACHE QUE EU AINDA MEREÇA.

PUTA MERDA, RICK! DÁ PRA *ACREDITAR*?

ESTAMOS TRABALHANDO *JUNTOS!*

JUNTEM SUAS ARMAS JÁ FICAMOS NA RESERVA POR TEMPO O SUFICIENTE!

ELES SÃO NOSSOS AMIGOS NOSSA FAMÍLIA E NÃO VAMOS DEIXÁ-LOS LUTAR ESSA BRIGA SOZINHOS!

A MANADA ESTÁ DIMINUINDO VAMOS FAZER NOSSA PARTE!

QUE FOI?

NADA.

VAMOS SAIR EM DEZ, PESSOAL!

PREPAREM-SE!

COMO ESTÁ AGORA?

BOM PRA CARALHO.

PREPAREM-SE, ARMEM-SE FIQUEM PRONTOS. PELO QUE PARECE, EU DIRIA QUE ESTA CATÁSTROFE ESTÁ ACALMANDO.

EM ALGUMAS HORAS VAMOS ENTRAR LÁ E LIMPAR O QUE ***RESTOU***.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

While the horde overwhelms Alexandria, let's give it up to the year's first candidates for Most Unlikely Couple of 2017: Rick & Negan! Not many tropes in comics bring me joy like the good guy and the bad guy teaming up, and these two have a lot to unpack. Stay tuned!

Oh yes, TWD is back on AMC by now for the second half of Season 7. Good times! You can catch me on Talking Dead weekly, where I'm played by Chris Hardwick.

Nice one, Sean!

I hope you are all excited about Rick and Negan (seemingly) being allies! Let's answer some mail!

———————————————

Kirkman,

Thank you for replying to my letter hack... I didn't expect you to reply and I am kind of embarrassed and I came across the wrong way and dramatic. When I wrote that letter hack I was in a bad mood because of people in articles and posts saying Jesus will be straight because they changed his last name and using that as an excuse to change one of his many important aspects: his sexual orientation. That was what I was saying. To me changing his sexuality especially or anything is a slap in the face. In any way not just the last name. Understand? I am the worst at comparisons!

Completely understand and agree. I'm an old man so I don't remember all the details of the previous email, and I'm also lazy, so I'm not going to dig it up. But if I was coy before... I'll be less so now, Jesus is gay on the TV show as well.

I mean, Tom Payne is so adorable it'd be a real waste to make him straight! Although in real life, he IS straight... such a waste, am I right?!

For the record I am gay (as I am sure I said in my letter hack before) so Jesus' sexuality is very important to me. He's awesome, but he isn't defined by his sexual orientation and he isn't full of stereotypes/tropes.

Many won't understand and I have had a lot to deal with, I was formally self hating (for being gay) and Jesus is the reason I opened my eyes because he totally kicks ass and isn't ashamed to be gay! So I look up to him a lot and I am not the only Jesus fan who has this attachment. One of my closest friends I met online is going through a similar situation as well. Your characters are very important to people. Gay (LGBT), POC, are all important. Representation matters!

Does this make sense? Sorry for being an idiot.

- Danny

Would never consider you to be an idiot! I completely understand this. It's quite touching to hear how important Jesus is to you and others. It's always great to hear this kind of feedback. You hear constantly from people online complaining about LGBTQ characters on TV with that famous "How do I explain this to my kids?" line. As a father of a two young kids, I'm very proud of the fact that my children have been aware of the LGBTQ community since they were 3 or 4. It's very easy to say, "Some people love members of the opposite sex, some people love members of the same sex." My children see "gay" as a descriptor on par with "tall". There is no negative connotation to it, it's just a trait a person can have, nothing more.

If you're reading this and you feel differently than that, please take a moment to consider if you'd enjoy living in a world where "tall" and "short" people were something you didn't want your kids to be aware of. Recognize how strange and wrong that would be.

And then... read the rest of this letters column, because y'know, why stop now? Sorry to step on a soapbox there for a moment.

———————————————

Greetings and Salutations Lord Kirkman and The Sean-Meister

First time writer here and 162 was AWESOME! I collect Charlie's original art pages and 162 was so good that I immediately messaged his agent to buy page 1 of this awesome issue. I am a major Negan fan and I absolutely had to have the funeral page for Lucille. I unfortunately missed out on getting her "death" page.

While the Whisperer War hasn't been as deadly as I expected (Bye Gabriel. We had forgotten you were still around), I am expecting a major character death in 163 or 164. Seems just like you to tease this massive war that changes everything and then make the big death come in the issue immediately after the War ends. Just as readers breathe a sigh of relief that their favorite character survived the war, bam (It better not be Negan).

I spent the earlier part of 2016 collecting all of the first prints of the original single issues and then rereading them at a speed of 2 issues per day. Such a great story.

The Megabox was awesome by the way. Before it was announced to be Negan centric, I was really hoping the variant book was not another #1 or #100 but it came out very cool! I have always wondered why they keep using those two issues for special variants. I would like to see a cool variant of #19 or #27 in the future.

For those of you that don't know what The MegaBox is, it's a new quarterly subscription box from Skybound. Every box contains a 5" McFarlane action figure, an exclusive comic, a t-shirt, an enamel pin and a bunch of extras. Since you were expecting some entertaining answers this letters page and instead had to settle for a sales pitch... I'll give you some exclusive info. The Spring edition contains maybe my favorite action figure we've done so far, 4 (!) comic books and lots of other cool stuff.

A trio of questions for you:

1. Are cars completely gone from the world? I am imagining what was left of the gasoline was used up during the time jump.

That's the idea, yeah. Cars are still around, but they're kind of useless.

2. Will we ever see the Cutting Room Floor book? Tired of this question? Too bad. The book sounds awesome and I want it!

Maybe never at this point. Sorry to disappoint. That way, if we ever do it, it'll just be a big surprise, and you'll be so happy you'll have forgotten we said it probably wasn't going to happen.

Never say never!

3. I absolutely adore the work of Charlie, Tony, and Robert. Would you ever consider a one off special where Tony and Charlie do an issue together?

That would be really awesome! But I fear we have lost Tony Moore to the world of fine art and illustration. Aside from the odd cover from time to time, you may never see another comic page from that genius. Would be cool, though!

Onward to a double dose in February!

Jeff
Memphis, TN

Comics by people who love comics! Two comics in one month! Woo!

_____

Rick being 38 makes no sense.

At the beginning of the story Rick was 27 and Carl was 7. Yet in 162 Rick says he's 38 years old.

Rick's age has never been stated in the comic. It's true! Enough's revealed that you can figure out he was around 23 years old when he started getting serious with Lori... which invalidates your theory because Rick can't have been 27 at the same time Carl was 7.

You even said in a Letter Hacks a while ago (after A New Beginning) Carl was about 13. When Lydia dumps him she even mentions that he's too young for her, after previously mentioning to Jesus that she's 16. And we know that the time between the end of All Out War and A New Beginning is roughly two years.

Robert and I disagree on many things, but maybe none more so than Carl's age. The irony there is that I know Carl is 7, like you all do, because Robert wrote he was 7 in issue 5. So long as Carl has never says how old he is post-time jump, you can just ignore what we say in the letters pages as made up shit. (Except for everything I just wrote.)

Officially, the time jump between 126 and 127 is not tied down to a specific number of years. It seems like around two, but could have been more.

Now, I know that back in the beginning, it was pretty much established that no one knew what the date was. I can see them losing a year, maybe two. But they think 11 years have passed since it all started? That seriously doesn't make any sense, guys.

-Ethan Tompkins

This is BY FAR the NERDIEST SHIT I have ever had to respond to, but it needs to be ON THE RECORD. I'm tired of living with the guilt of Carl's age by myself... unless we ever do a TWD: Special Edition and change Carl's age...and reveal Shane as Beta.

Bah! It's totally possible that Carl has aged five years since the beginning of the series. Kids age fast!

_____

Hey Robert! Hey Sean! I love the comic (and I like the show okay), but there's a few things bugging me. Maybe you can clear them up.

1. The distance between communities. Alexandria was around for about 2 years before they came in contact with Hilltop, Kingdom, and Sanctuary. Heath and co were doing plenty of scavenging around the area and never saw them, so surely those communities must be far away. But it seems to vary. In some issues it's just an overnight drive from one to the other, while in other issues it seems to take days. Would you consider making a map? I'm really curious where these places are in relation to each other.

OK. WE GET IT. YOU WANT A MAP. But maybe Robert can give us some insight in the meantime...

I think some of the confusion is that the distance between communities was hard to traverse for many reasons before the time jump. During the time jump, the area between the communities has been cleaned up, cleared of wrecked cars and zombies, and

it's a much easier journey now.

2. Jesus's background. Will we ever find out how he came to be a ninja? I'm curious about that. He's an excellent fighter (and acrobat?) but I'm wondering about the how/why. It could just be a quick mention from him when characters talk about their pasts or something...

That is something we will get around to eventually.

3. Five thousand zombies. So we're about 5 or 6 years into the zombie apocalypse now. I'd think that by this point there's a lack of corpses. The living kill the living and they kill the dead. There's been a lot of eliminating over 6 years. So how are there still enough walkers for the Whisperers to amass such a horde?

There is not a lack of corpses. And the Whisperers have been gathering that mega herd for a very long time. Note that our people still steer clear from cities... they're still packed.

4. Robert, where's your Cutting Room Floor book? I pre-ordered it four years ago, and was really looking forward to it!

Ok, I'm officially just going to remove any reference to the Cutting Room Floor in the future. This is your advance warning.

Never say never!

Thanks for clearing things up for me,
Mike

I hope we didn't cause MORE confusion.

First off thanks very much for this whisperer war arc. Even though there hasn't been any really major fatalities I've really enjoyed it and the new panel layout made all the issues feel so dense and full of content.

Glad you enjoyed it. Sorry that so many people expect big fatalities when we do stories like that. If that's what we did every time, you'd expect it! People don't have to die in massive piles for a story to have impact!

Was this change in style made to specifically contrast it with All Out War where you used large splash pages for the action.

It was done for a number of reasons. To fit more story in the issues, to be able to show more things happening at once, since the events are rather chaotic. AND to make it stand apart from All Out War which was important to Charlie and me.

Here's my main question though. Dante is my new favorite character I think you've written him so well, he has so much charm and wit and I may be the only one but I'm really rooting for Maggie and Dante. They have good chemistry. I just really disliked Maggie saying that her entering a new relationship would somehow be disrespectful to Glenn.

Should I give up hope for MaggiexDante ? Has that train left the station or can I keep hoping ?

Lou, Northern Ireland.

Never say never.

What's up Kirkman, This is my first letter hack so I hope I am doing this right...

I wanted to start off by saying I love your comic series (game/show too) and I love how diverse your characters are! Jesus is by far my favorite comic character! I even have a fan page for him. I am glad to see him in the game. I love him in the show as well, Tom really impressed me with how accurately he plays him. Although there are changes (last name, introduction, etc.) I still think Jesus is badass in any form he's in. I am excited to see how is story plays out in the show compared to the comic series.

I am also in the LGBT community so I love seeing LGBT characters. I feel like you do a great job with representation... especially since most of the time LGBT characters aren't represented accurately. (Note: I want a transgender character... I remember you saying that you would for a different series)

I hope the show includes a partner soon for Jesus (Alex?!!!!!) I feel like we are getting closer to the point where he is introduced.

Lastly: when are we getting a Jesus backstory? I understand that it wouldn't fit the story right now since the whisperer war is ending and everything, plus it fits how mysterious he is... BUT We are all so curious though. I was thinking a backstory GAME! or a set of issues like Negan got.

Since "Here's Negan"(currently running in Image Plus) is ending in October 2017, seems like good timing for "Praise Jesus" or whatever you call it, right? You'd make Eric Stephenson a VERY happy man!

Now THERE'S an idea!

I hope this was okay for my first letter hack... and you don't cringe too much.

From, Mary (here come the mary and jesus jokes I get a lot)

No cringing done at all.

Hey guys,
So after reading issue 162 aka part 6 of the Whisperer War I've got a couple votes for you as follows:

+1 for the way Carl and Lydia's conversation juxtaposes Rick and Andrea's conversation. Carl seems to think that the sum of their experiences has put them in a good spot ("but we did them...the horrible things...to get here, to get to this life, with these people...where we don't have to do things like that anymore"). On the other hand, Rick's response to Andrea being okay with how things are now is "then what are we doing?". Beautiful.

Thanks.

-1 for the way how this issues ends the story arc. The war isn't over...the horde is right around the corner. Shouldn't the end of the Whisperer War contain the outcome of whatever is going to happen with the horde? I get cliffhangers but this seems more like an unresolved part of the story arc.

Hey, even is better than in the negative. I guess.

Stephen Pineros
Greenville, SC

That's a fine complaint to have, but just so you see my perspective... there aren't any Whisperers in these issues... so the war with the Whisperers is OVER... and this is how they ended it. As far as they're concerned... they won.

Dear Robert, Sean, and Crew,

This is my first time writing, even though I've been a fan of this comic for a while now, just over three years. I'm literally obsessed, it's all I do. I'd first like to state that the cliffhanger that came with issue 162 sent me flying to the ground, not out of frustration, but out of all the possibilities that were racing through my mind. Like if Alexandria was taken over, Rick could lose Andrea, they'd lose the bread mill, and Negan would never be able to live in that outpost!! Even though he deserves to live in one of those comfy houses.

Does he?

I do have a question. So shane was big part of the comics in the first few issues, and he definitely meant a lot to rick before and after the outbreak. So point being, with Negan trying to get closer to Rick, lets say he does, would rick ever tell Negan about Shane? Or will Negan ever find out about Shane? I feel like that would be interesting for Negan to get to know Rick more, especially about Ricks past. The other way around would be cool too! —with Rick knowing Negan better.

Keep up the great work guys! Especially with Charlie's art!

Thanks!
-Joel Snell, Canada

This issue would've been a good opportunity to do that... but how much does Rick even think about Shane now? Three times a year? I feel like he got a lot of closure after he dug him up and shot him dead, and probably doesn't dwell on it that much these days.

Agreed. Maybe more than three times a year, but not so often he would have come up in the discussion this issue.

Where do I begin? My mother-in-law got me the three compendiums for Christmas this year and I just read all 162 (that horde though) issues in three weeks. I am emotionally exhausted but my mind is on fire and ready for more. Thank you for creating such a poignant story of these survivors. It's helped me escape some of the vitriolic rhetoric from this past election cycle. I am LIVING for Rick and Andrea's relationship right now. What a gem. Also, how much more teasing of the Jesus/Aaron ship (Jesaron? Aaresus?? No?) are y'all gonna put us through before it turns into the love cruise we've all been waiting for? Again, thank you. These comics are, as you know, incredible.

Garan T.
Crossville, Alabama

Not enough gets said about Rick and Andrea's awesomeness. And she's a huge part of Rick living in the present and building a community, instead of dwelling on Shane, Lori and Judith.

Have we been teasing about Jesus and Aaron getting together? Hm?

Hello Robert and gang!

I read issue #162 last week and then I came back to it today. I'm not bitching but it just seemed to me that, what I thought was going to be the end of "The Whisperer War" is really not the end of it……aside from them just walking off as if to say "fuck it, let someone else kick their ass" and that "someone" being the dead. Maybe I was hoping for a showdown between Rick and Beta at some point, I don't know.

Rick is not the action hero we once knew. That would NOT go well for him.

Anyway, I just have a couple questions so here you go:

1) Are we seeing Beta again soon or is it going to be a while?

I'll never tell.

2) Is Lydia trustworthy yet? I'm still not so sure.

I'll never tell.

By the way, I just got started on Invincible and I have read 1-24 so far. Really good stuff. It is so cool to read the letters and responses that are now over a decade old. Is it too late to say "banana split"?

Chris Crossont
Baltimore, MD

It's NEVER too late to say "banana split"! And it's also never too late to start reading INVINCIBLE! Everyone reading this--go out and start reading that book right now!

That just about does it. We'll be back in TWO weeks, for #165! Do Rick and Negan kiss in that one? Maybe. I ain't telling!

-Sean Mackiewicz

Man, I sure hope so!

-Robert Kirkman